

**IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. :
Applicant : Steven Tisma
Filed: July 25, 2003
Title : Mandrel with Variable Widths for Automatic Packaging Machines

Art Unit : 3721
Examiner : Brian D. Nash

Attorney Docket No. : 204280-9001

Mail Stop: PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This application is a continuation of patent Application Serial No. 09/694,971 filed on October 24, 2000. Prior to examination of this application, applicant requests the following amendments be made and the claim fee be recalculated in accordance therewith:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.